

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on September 12, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6. Claims 1 and 6 are the independent claims, and claims 1-3, 6, 10 and 11 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §112, ¶1 for lack of written description, and further rejected for lack of enablement under the same paragraph of the statute. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite "a signal transmission module connected between the host and the control module" instead of "a signal transmission module connected between the power module and the control module", which is believed to overcome the above rejections. The amended claims reflect an arrangement of elements as disclosed, for example, in FIG. 1, which shows signal transmission module 18 connected between host 24 and control module 12.

Claims 1-3, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over *Meir* (US 6,275,946 B1) in view of *Dunstan* (US 5,565,759). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In a previous Office Action dated June 13, 2006, it was indicated that "a signal transmission module connected between the power module and the control

module, the control module sending and receiving messages from the host via the signal transmission module” as recited in now cancelled claims 17 and 18, constituted allowable subject matter. Accordingly, this feature was introduced into the independent claims, which were then rejected in the current Office Action under 35 USC §112, ¶1, and have been amended as noted supra.

Independent claims 1 and 6 as amended recite the feature of “a signal transmission module connected between the host and the control module, the control module sending and receiving messages from the host via the signal transmission module”. Claim 1 is directed to an interface card whilst claim 6 is directed to a computer system comprising an interface card and recites this feature as part of the interface card.

The current Office Action states that *Meir* “is silent as to sending a warning message to a host when either one of the power module and the external power source is low in capacity and *a signal module connected to a control module, the control module sending and receiving messages from the host via the signal transmission module*” (*emphasis added*) and alleges that *Dunstan* teaches “a signal transmission module [must have a sending module inside fig 3 element 34 for sending messages to host element 30] connected to a control module [control module inside figure 3 element 34 – controlling the sending/receiving of messages to host element 30 based on some conditional situation, some control element must evaluate the situation before sending a message], the control module sending and receiving messages from the host via the signal transmission module

also for the benefit of having the user rectify those potentially dangerous situations [column 8 lines 45-53]”.

Column 8, lines 45-53, of *Dunstan* in fact reads as follows:

Communication between smart battery **34** and smart battery charger **32** and/or system host **30** can be performed: to allow smart battery **34** to warn other system components of potential problems, to allow smart battery **34** to warn the user, power management system, or smart battery charger about potentially dangerous situations that the user can rectify, and to allow smart battery **34** to instruct the smart battery charger what charge current and charge voltage to generate.

FIG. 3 of *Dunstan* shows that smart battery **34** is connected to host **30** via bus **38**, and shows a flow of “critical events” from battery **34** to host **30** and “battery data/status requests” from host **30** to battery **34**.

Nothing either in column 8, lines 45-53 or FIG. 3 of *Dunstan* discloses either a signal transmission module or a control module inside smart battery **34**, and yet the Office Action alleges that these modules are necessarily present therein.

In fact, *Dunstan* actually shows the components inside an embodiment of the smart battery, shown at **82** in FIG. 4, and comprising microcontroller **56**, rechargeable battery **80**, measuring circuits **74**, **76**, **78** and terminal connections **50**, **52**, **54**, **55**. Assuming that microcontroller **56** corresponds to the claimed “control module”, there is no “signal transmission module” shown connected

between microcontroller **56** and terminals **54, 55** that are shown connected to a bus **53**.

Hence, when FIG. 3 and FIG. 4 of *Dunstan* are considered together, with smart battery **82** of FIG. 4 taking the place of smart battery **34** of FIG. 3, there is no module of any kind, much less a "signal transmission module" connected between microcontroller **56** (i.e. the "control module") and host **30**.

Consequently, *Dunstan* does not contemplate "a signal transmission module connected between the host and the control module, the control module sending and receiving messages from the host via the signal transmission module" as presently claimed.

It is believed that for at least this reason independent claims 1 and 6 patentably define over the art of record and are allowable, together with claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 that depend therefrom.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

Alun L. Palmer – Reg. No. 47,838
RABIN & BERDO, PC – Cust. No. 23995
Facsimile: 202-408-0924
Telephone: 202-371-8976

ALP/atl